

Fertilizer Industry Methamphetamine Task Force

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FERTILIZER INDUSTRY METHAMPHETAMINE TASK FORCE SUPPORTS COMBAT METH ACT

Washington, D.C. – The Fertilizer Industry Methamphetamine Task Force today praised the Combat Meth Act as introduced by Sens. Jim Talent (R-Mo.), Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa). If enacted, the legislation would regulate the sale of pseudoephedrine by keeping products that contain it behind a pharmacy counter and by allowing only a pharmacist or pharmacy technician to sell such products.

The fertilizer industry and agricultural retailers have been particularly hard hit with this nationwide problem, as meth users continue to steal anhydrous ammonia for the illegal production of methamphetamine. Anhydrous ammonia is a beneficial source of nitrogen, one of nature's three essential crop nutrients. Unfortunately for farmers and agricultural retailers, anhydrous ammonia is all-too-often the target of theft by meth users to concoct methamphetamine.

Combating the growing methamphetamine epidemic in rural communities across the country requires an effective partnership between government, local citizens and law enforcement. The task force believes this legislation, in conjunction with the fertilizer industry's voluntary efforts to promote and utilize deterrants such as tank locks and additives, is critical to ultimately winning the war against illicit methamphetamine production.

The Fertilizer Industry Methamphetamine Task Force is comprised of the Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA), The Fertilizer Institute (TFI), state fertilizer associations, and several producers, distributors and retailers of anhydrous ammonia fertilizer in North America.

The Fertilizer Industry Methamphetamine Task Force represents the producers, distributors and retailers of anhydrous ammonia fertilizer in North America. The task force works with federal and local law enforcement agencies, as well as researchers and industry professionals in an effort to deter the theft of anhydrous ammonia for the production of methamphetamine.